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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes #1

May 13, 2013

1. The regular meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m. on Monday, May 13, 2013 in the Dorothy Vocino Conference Room in the URI Library, Chairperson Byrd presiding. All members of the 2012-13 and the 2013-14 Executive Committees were present.

Those present were Chairperson David Byrd, Vice Chairperson Michael Rice, Senators Susan Brady, Michael Cerbo, Kathleen Davis and Bahram Nassersharif and Professors Marilyn Barbour and Peter Larsen.

2. The Minutes of Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #36, April 29, 2013 were approved. The Minutes of Meeting #37, May 6, 2013 were approved pending the Provost's review of sections concerning him.

3. The Executive Committee discussed Faculty Senate Meeting #9, May 9, 2013, which was held the previous week. The Executive Committee was pleased with the Senate's discussion of arming the campus police and noted that there was a clear majority of votes in favor of the resolution reaffirming a firearms-free campus. They also agreed that the forum on online and distance education went well.

4. Announcements/Reports/Correspondence:

a. Chairperson Byrd welcomed Senators Brady and Cerbo to the 2013-14 Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Everyone introduced himself or herself.

b. Ms. Grubman announced that Ms. Neff had been offered the position of Faculty Senate Coordinator by the Search Committee and had accepted the position subject to all of the required paperwork. Ms. Grubman said that her last day at URI will be Friday, June 29 and Ms. Neff will assume the position on Monday, July 1, 2013.

c. Professor Larsen announced that Chairperson Byrd had agreed to serve as Grand Marshall for Commencement in his stead.

d. Chairperson Byrd, Vice Chairperson Rice and Professor Larsen reported on their meeting that morning with President Dooley. They said that the following matters were discussed at that time:

1) Arming the Campus Police: They reported that President Dooley indicated that he hadn't heard about the Judiciary Committee's discussion on May 9. Another hearing is planned for later in the week. The President appeared to be hopeful that the Judiciary Committee would ask the Board of Governors for their thoughts on the issue rather than move ahead immediately on approving legislation. The hope is that the legislature would hold bill for further study, including consultation with the Board. They agreed that the University would like to have more autonomy and would prefer enabling legislation from the Board of Education to a state mandate.

Vice Chairperson Rice said that he had written to the Chair of the Judiciary Committee informing her that both the AAUP and the Faculty Senate had passed resolutions in opposition to arming the police and that a number of students and faculty members had expressed their opposition as well. He said that Representative Ajello had served on the committee that recommended arming the police, but that the recommendation had been in conjunction with other recommendations.

2) Commencement at the Ryan Center: They reported that they had discussed the move of Commencement from the Quad to the Ryan Center. President Dooley said that the people he had consulted agreed it was the safest move. Concerns had been raised about the large number of points of access on the quad. They said that the President had indicated using other options had been discarded because there were no plans in place for another venue. The Ryan Center, which has for many years been the alternative plan in case of rain, had been the obvious choice. The Executive Committee wondered with whom the President had consulted on the matter, because as far as they knew faculty members and students had not been asked for advice. It was noted that many students and their families had expressed their dismay about the decision.

3) Graduate School/Graduate Council and Online Education: They reported that both items had been discussed briefly. They said the President was optimistic about online education at URI and saw it as a revenue producer. With regard to issues related to the Graduate School, President Dooley had suggested that it might be a topic for a meeting over the summer.

5. Members of the 2012-13 FSEC brought the new members, Senator Brady and Senator Cerbo, up to date on matters that would be continuing during the 2013-14 academic year:

a. Focused Program Review: Members of the FSEC explained the reasons that they had decided to propose language for the University Manual on focused program review. They said that the Provost had encouraged the FSEC to forward the draft proposal to the deans for the deans' comments.

Ms. Grubman said that she would forward the FSEC's most recent draft on Focused Program Review to the new members of the committee, as well as comments from Deans Kirby, Larrat, Sullivan and Zawia.

It was suggested that the FSEC might bring the new proposal to the Faculty Senate in September and October.

b. Administrator Evaluation: Senator Nassersharif reported that all of the committees were working or had completed their work. He said that Provost DeHayes had met with both Dean Higgins' and Dean Kirby's Evaluation Committees but was not sure that the Administrator Evaluation Committees for Dean Maslyn and Vice Provost McCray were in the process although they had gathered the results of the surveys. It was agreed that once the pilot was completed, the existing sections of the University would have to be revised based on what has been learned over the two years. Among the outstanding issues to be considered would be the length of time committees should maintain their evaluation materials and whether additional administrators, such as the Dean of Admissions or the Vice Presidents for Administration and Finance and Vice President for Student Affairs, should be included in the process.

Senator Nassersharif said that according to his records, Provost DeHayes, Vice Provosts Libutti and Bozylinsky and Deans Brownell and Zawia were scheduled for review during the 2013-14 academic year. He said that it wasn't clear when Dean Richmond and President Dooley would be evaluated or whether Vice Provost Beauvais would be included.

c. Graduate Faculty Status and Graduate Council and related issues: Professor Larsen suggested that the Executive Committee, the Provost, and Deans Zawia and Killingbeck meet during the summer to clarify goals and future directions for graduate education, the graduate faculty and the Graduate Council.

6. The Executive Committee reviewed the following section of the University Manual:

4.40.10 The University Faculty shall meet at the beginning of the academic year for an address by the President, at other times determined by the President or when a meeting is requested in writing by 25 percent of the faculty.

Following discussion, the Executive Committee agreed to invite President Dooley to deliver a "State of the University Address" on September 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Black Grubman